

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

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P R 120830Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8966

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

CHMAAG CHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USARFT TAIPEI

327 AIRDIV TAIPEI AS

374 TAW CCKAB TAIWAN/DOI

CINCUSARPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 12470

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSARPAC FOR GPIN-TP

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

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TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJ: WEEKLY REVIEW OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 50

POUCHED: BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, JAKARTA, ISLAMABAD, KUALA LUMPUR,

MANILA, NEW DELHI, PHNOM PENH, RANGOON, ROME, SAIGON,
SEOUL, VIENTIANE, USNATO, USMISSION GENEVA DISTO, 13AF MANILA,
7TH PSYOP GP OKINAWA, CO AUG 7TH PSYOP GP TAIWAN

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SUMMARY. THE NPC APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DELAYED, BUT THERE ARE TENUOUS SIGNS OF TOP LEVEL CONSULTATIONS BEING HELD. CONCURRENTLY THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF AN EFFORT TO SHOW THAT THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE HAS NOT IMPAIRED LEADERSHIP UNITY AT THE TOP. CRITICISM, AND DIFFERING VIEWS ON HOW TO APPROACH IT CONTINUES MUCH IN EVIDENCE. ARTICLES IN A NEW SHANGHAI JOURNAL STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT CURRENTLY A SUBJECT OF DEBATE WITHIN THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP. SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS APPEAR ON THE RISE AGAIN AS PEKING TAUNTS THE SOVIETS OVER THEIR REACTION TO THE US MILITARY ALERT AND MOSCOW ALLEGES PRC SUBVERSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE CHINESE LABELED THE US COMMENTS ON "HEGEMONY" DURING THE CAMBODIAN DEBATE AT THE UN A "GRAVE ACCUSATION." END SUMMARY.

1. NPC

NOW THAT NOVEMBER, A POSSIBLE TAGET DATE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAS PASSED, IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPECULATE THAT THE EVENT HAS BEEN DELAYED AND THAT CURRENT POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DISAGREEMENTS ARE THE CAUSE OF THIS. SOME INTELLIGENCE REPORTS WOULD SUPPORT THIS VIEW, ALTHOUGH A HONG KONG CADRE RECENTLY TOLD A DLO OFFICER THAT HE THOUGHT THE NPC WOULD MEET BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. TWO PROVINCIAL POLITBURO FIGURES MISSED IMPORTANT PROTOCOL EVENTS IN THEIR BAILIWICKS DURING THE WEEK AND, WHILE THE PATTERN

OF LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES DURING THE PERIOD IS NOT CONCLUSIVE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME PROCESS OF TOP LEVEL CONSULTATIONS HAS

BEEN UNDERWAY (HONG KONG 12268).
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2. CHIANG CHING

CHIANG CHING, OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT SINCE OCTOBER 1, PUT IN A FLURRY OF APPEARANCES OVER THE WEEKEND, JOINING CHOU IN MEETING FOREIGN VISITORS. FROM ONE PERSPECTIVE, THIS PROMINENCE FOR HER ACCORDS WITH THE SHIFTING LIMELIGHT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN INDIVIDUAL LEADERS SINCE THE PARTY CONGRESS. IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE AN EFFORT TO SCOTCH SPECULATION THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE HAS IMPAIRED THE UNITY OF THE LEADERSHIP (HONG KONG 12392). IN CHIANG CHING'S CASE, THE NEED TO DISPLAY UNITY MAY BE PARTICULARLY ACUTE. A NEW WAVE OF PRESS COMMENT ON THE OPERA "TUCHUAN MOUNTAIN" ZEROS IN ON THE "CONTRADICTION" BETWEEN THE HEROINE AND THE HERO, WHO CAN BE INTERPRETED TO REPRESENT CHIANG CHING AND CHOU. THE MAIN LINE OF THE NEW COMMENT IS THAT THE CONTRADICTION IS IMPORTANT BUT WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF COMRADELY DIFFERENCES (HONG KONG 12468).
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3. FENG YU-LAN'S SELF-CRITICISM

ELDERLY SCHOLAR FENG YU-LAN HAS CONTRIBUTED A SELF-CRITICISM TO THE CURRENT ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN. APPEARING AS THE AUTHOR OF TWO ARTICLES IN PEKING'S KUANG-MING DAILY, DEC. 3 AND 4, FENG RAKES OVER HIS PAST ERRORS ON INTERPRETING CONFUCIUS THOUGHT IN AN EASY, CASUAL WAY, THAT SEEMS CALCULATED TO SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHER WAYWARD INTELLECTUALS. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC SELF-CRITICISM BY A NATIONAL FIGURE SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND ALTHOUGH QUITE PALLID IN TONE WHEN COMPARED TO THE FLAGELLATIONS OF THAT PERIOD, IT DOES TEND TOWARD A PERSONALIZING OF THE ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT (HONG KONG 12358).
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4. RED FLAG ON "ERRONEOUS TIDES"

THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF RED FLAG HAS OFFERED WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MODERATE'S VERSION OF HOW TO "GO AGAINST THE TIDES" THE ARTICLE URGES CADRE TO USE A "SOBER AND CLEARHEADED" APPROACH TO THE TASK OF DISCERNING "ALL WRONG TIDES." IN AN APPARENT COMMENT ON EFFORTS OUTSIDE PEKING TO TURN "GOING AGAINST THE TIDE" INTO AN ANTI-LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN (ITEM 5), THE ARTICLE NOTES THE SLOGAN IS "COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH PARTY DISCIPLINE," AND WARNS THAT OPPOSITION TO DISCIPLINE COULD GET ONE IDENTIFIED AS AN "OPPORTUNIST CHIEFTAIN."
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5. CRITICISM IN HUNAN

A DECEMBER 4 HUNAN RADIO BROADCAST SUGGESTED THAT THE PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM. FROM THE TONE OF THE BROADCAST, IT WOULD NOT APPEAR THAT THE CRITICISM WAS SEVERE, OR THAT THE SITUATION IN HUNAN IS COMPARABLE

TO THE MORE AGITATED SCENE IN WUHAN (WR 48). HOWEVER, IT NOW
APPEARS THAT A MOVEMENT TO CRITICIZE LOCAL LEADERS, UNDER SOME
DEGREE OF CENTER GUIDANCE, MAY BE WIDESPREAD IN THE PRC (HONG
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P R 120830Z DEC 73
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8967
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN
CINCPAC
FBIS OKINAWA
CHMAAG CHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USARFT TAIPEI
327 AIRDIV TAIPEI AS
374 TAW CCKAB TAIWAN/DOI
CINCUSARPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSARPAC FOR GPIN-TP

6. FOREIGN POLICY LINE
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ARTICLES IN A NEW SHANGHAI JOURNAL WHICH REITERATES THE BASIC THEMES OF PRC FOREIGN POLICY STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT CURRENTLY SUBJECT OF DEBATE WITHIN THE PEKING LEADERSHIP. VOLUME TWO OF "STUDIES AND CRITICISM" USES THE SAME BREST-LITOVSK TREATY ANALOGY CITED BY CHOU EN-LAI IN HIS REPORT TO THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS TO COME OUT SOLIDLY FOR COMPROMISE WITH THE UNITED STATES AS "NECESSARY." THE AUTHORS, HOWEVER, GO TO GREATER LENGTHS THAN CHOU DID TO STRESS THAT THIS IS AN EXPEDIENT POLICY AIMED AT THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF ALL "IMPERIALIST" INCLUDING THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES. THE JOURNAL ALSO ECHOES CHOU'S FAVORABLE VIEW OF US FORCES IN EUROPE, NATO, AND THE COMMON MARKET AND SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE FOR A TURN-FOR-THE-BETTER IN SOVIET POLICY.
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7. MID-EAST

PEKING HAS NOT PUBLICLY REFERRED TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST NOR TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S UPCOMING RETURN VISIT TO THE AREA. ITS LIMITED REPORTING HAS EMPHASIZED MILITARY INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE ANTAGONISTS AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE. NCNA (DECEMBER 9) DID REPORT THE OAPEC MEETING'S DECISION TO CONTINUE USING THE "OIL WEAPON" BUT QUOTED IN FULL ONLY THE SECTION OF THE MEETING'S DOCUMENTS SPELLING OUT THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO ON THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LIFTED. MEANWHILE, NCNA CONTINUES TO REPORT ON SOME OF THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS

OF THE OIL CRISIS IN WESTERN EUROPE, JAPAN, AND THE UNITED STATES.
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8. CAMBODIA

A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 7 CHARGED ANGRILY THAT THE UNITED NATIONS VOTE TO POSTPONE DEBATE ON THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION TO NEXT YEAR WAS THE RESULT OF "US IMPERIALISM'S" RESORT TO "TRICKERY AND MACHINATIONS." IT LABELED AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S REFERENCE TO THE PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION'S SUPPORT OF "GREAT POWER HEGEMONY IN ASIA" AND
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"INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A MEMBER STATE" A "GRAVE ACCUSATION" AND ASKED RHETORICALLY IF THE ACCUSATION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN LEVELED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES INSTEAD. LEAVING NO DOUBT THAT THE CODE-WORD "HEGEMONY" CHARGE HAD STRUCK HOME, IT ARGUED THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE RESTORATION OF SIHANOUK "IF YOU ARE REALLY OPEN AND ABOVEBOARD AND ARE NOT SEEKING HEGEMONY IN ASIA." OTHER COMMENT ON CAMBODIA HAS BEEN ROUTINE WITH THE RESIGNATION OF IN TAM SAID TO REFLECT THE GRAVITY

OF INTERNAL CONFLICT IN THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, CHINESE MEDIA, NOT SURPRISINGLY, HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE DECEMBER 8 AND 9 PARIS MEETING ON CAMBODIA SPONSORED BY FRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE. MOSCOW AND NORTH VIETNAM HAVE BOTH GIVEN IT CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY.

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9. VIETNAM

PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR (DECEMBER 8) DIRECTLY ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE AUGUST 3. IN RECENT MONTHS, NCNA HAS CARRIED NUMEROUS REPORTS OF DRV AND PRG COMPLAINTS ABOUT US "VIOLATIONS" OF THE AGREEMENT BUT EVEN DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRG PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO IN PEKING, PRC AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS HAD AVOIDED MAKING THIS CHARGE. PEOPLE'S DAILY ACCUSES THE UNITED STATES OF LEAVING 24,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH VITNAM DISGUISED AS ADVISERS, ILLEGALLY PROVIDING ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO SAIGON, AND INTRUDING INTO DRV AND PRG-CONTROLLED TERRITORIAL AIR SPACE (PEKING 1576). IT ALSO HITS US/SAIGON "MALICIOUS SLANDER" AND "TRUCULENT MILITARY THREATS," ARGUING THAT THE DRV AND PRG ARE "SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

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10. NEPAL

KING BIR NDRA WITH HIS QUEEN AND ENTOURAGE ARRIVED IN KUNMING ON DECEMBER 7 AND IN PEKING THE NEXT DAY TO BEGIN A STATE VISIT TO THE PRC. HE HELD TALKS WITH CHOU EN-LAI, MADE THE OBLIGATORY CALL ON MAO, AND ATTENDED THE NORMAL BANQUETS. THE GROUP THEN DEPARTED FOR A TOUR OF SOUTHERN CHINA. IN THE PEKING SPEECHES AND PRESS COVERAGE, THE CHINESE EMPHASIZED THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS A MODEL FOR THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF

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PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, THE IMPORTANCE OF NEPAL'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS ECONOMY AND MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE TWO STATES AS DEVELOPING, THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO KING BIRENDRA'S JULY 27 SPEECH ON FOREIGN POLICY, THANKED NEPAL FOR ITS SUPPORT FOR PRC ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND PRAISED THE KING'S STANCE AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. INDIA, OF COURSE, WAS NOT MENTIONED AND VEILED REFERENCES TO INDO-NEPALI DIFFERENCES WERE REDUCED TO VIRTUALLY NIL. CHOU HINTED THAT MORE PRC AID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, BUT CAUTIONED THAT CHINESE ABILITY TO PROVIDE AID WAS LIMITED. NO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OR A JOINT COMMUQUE HAVE AS YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

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11. USSR

REUTERS DISPATCH FROM PEKING (DECEMBER 11) STATES THAT THE PRC

AND THE USSR NEGOTIATORS IN PEKING HAVE SIGNED A PROTOCOL TO THE AIR AGREEMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW ONE NON-STOP FLIGHT BY EACH OF THEIR NATIONAL AIRLINES BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS PER WEEK. THE NEW SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR.

12. MEANWHILE, SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS APPEAR TO BE HEATING UP ONCE AGAIN. THE ANGRY EXCHANGES AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS DECEMBER 7 INCLUDED CHINESE CHARGES OF SOVIET "SABER-RATTLING" AND A MONGOLIAN DENUNCIATION OF CHINESE MANEUVERS ON THE BORDER. THE SOVIET MAGAZINES ZA RUBEZHOM AND NEW TIMES REPORTEDLY ACCUSED CHINA OF FOLLOWING AN OPENLY EXPANSIONIST POLICY TOWARD ITS NEIGHBORS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE LATTER SUGGESTED THAT THE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS INTO HONG KONG IS PART OF A PLOT TO INFILTRATE AGENTS BACK INTO SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, PEOPLE'S DAILY ON DECEMBER 11 RIDICULED SOVIET ACCUSATIONS THAT THE PRC WAS ATTEMPTING TO STIR UP DISSENSION BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT TAUNTED THE SOVITS FOR BACKING DOWN ON SENDING TROOPS TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE FACE OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY ALERT AND SAID THIS EXEMPLIFIED NORMAL SOVIET PRACTICES OF BULLYING

THE WEAK AND FEARING THE STRONG. PEOPLE'S DAILY CONCLUDED THAT CONTENTION BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS WAS INEVITABLE AND THAT CHINA DID NOT "DESERVE THE COMPLIMENT" THAT IT COULD AFFECT THIS.
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PARIS
PEKING
SINGAPORE

TAIPEI
TOKYO
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CINCPAC
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CHMAAG CHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USARFT TAIPEI
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